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FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4736

INFO RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC

RUEHEE/ARAB LEAGUE COLLECTIVE

RUEHFR/AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY 0729

RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 8778 PRIORITY

RHEHAAA/NSC WASHINGTON DC

RUCPDOC/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHINGTON DC

RHMFSS/DEPT OF ENERGY WASHINGTON DC

RUEHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY 0515

RUEHTRO/AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI 5265

UNCLAS TRIPOLI 000320

SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

STATE FOR EEB/IFD/OMA JULIA JACOBY; ENERGY FOR GINA ERICKSON; COMMERCE FOR NATE MASON; CAIRO FOR ALEX SEVERENS; PARIS AND LONDON

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: TRIPOLI RESPONSE TO FY09 PROHIBITION ON ASSISTANCE TO
CENTRAL GOVERNMENTS WHOSE BUDGETS ARE NOT TRANSPARENT

REF: STATE 00028885

(SBU) This is a response to the request for information on the transparency of Libya's budget. Replies are keyed to reftel:

-Is the central government expected to receive or is it already receiving U.S. foreign assistance funding using FY 09 funds?

Answer: Yes.

-Is the host country's budget publicly available?

Answer: Libya's overall budget figures are available online and in print media, mainly in official news articles with quotes from government officials. However, more precise budget details, such as expenditures by sector, are not readily available.

-Are incomes and expenditures included in the publicly-available budget?

Answer: The overall expenditures are included in the publicly-available budget information.

-What is post's assessment of the extent to which the publicly-available budget accurately reflects actual government incomes and expenditures?

Answer: The publicly-available budget accurately reflects actual government incomes and expenditures to the best of our knowledge. Transparency of government budgeting and spending remains an issue for the Libyan government, which is reputed to suffer from corruption and inefficiency.

STEVENS